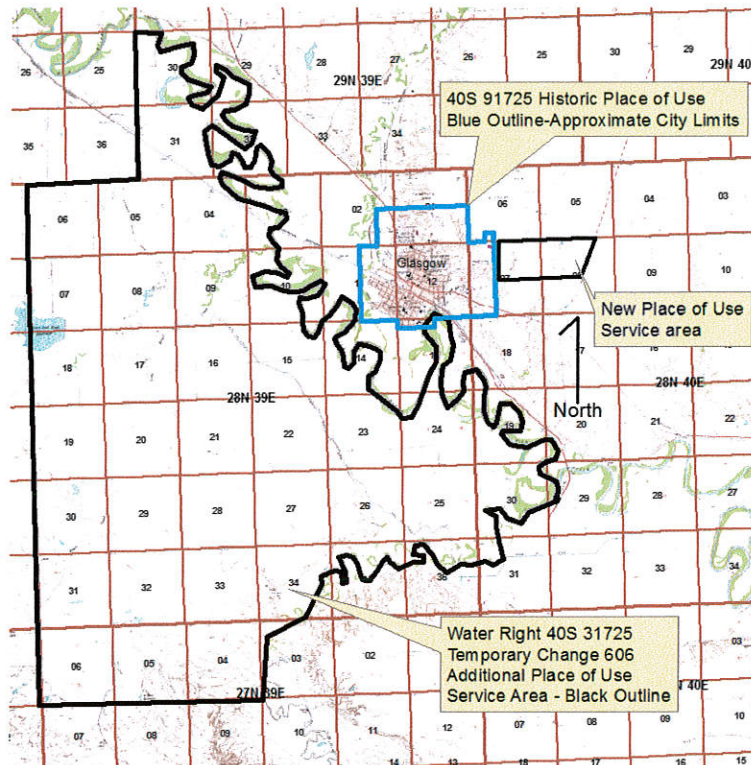


Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Rights Bureau

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**



**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. Applicant/Contact name and address: City of Glasgow  
319 Third St S  
Glasgow, MT 59230
2. Type of action: Application to Change an Existing Water Right 40S 30069034
3. Water source name: Missouri River below Fort Peck dam
4. Location affected by project:  
T29N, R39E  
Sections 29-32  
  
T28N, R39E  
Sections 3-36

T28N, R40E

Sections 7, 8, 19, 20, 30, 31

5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:

The City of Glasgow is proposing a temporary (10 year) change to increase the service area for their municipal water system. The purpose of this change is to provide water to the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority (DPRWA) who will then provide water to users within the proposed service area. The intent is to assist DPRWA provide water to a portion of their customers until the rest of the DPRWA mainline is installed and water can be delivered from the DPRWA treatment plant in Wolf Point.

The DNRC shall issue a change authorization if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402 MCA are met.

6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:

Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (DFWP)  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Montana Natural Heritage Program  
National Wetlands Inventory

The October, 2002 Final Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact was prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

To obtain a copy of this Environmental Assessment, please contact the:

Montana Department of Natural Resources  
Water Resources Glasgow Regional Office  
P.O. Box 1269, Glasgow, MT 59230  
406-228-2561

or

Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority  
PO Box 577, Culbertson, MT 59218  
406-787-5382

**Part II. Environmental Review**

1. **Environmental Impact Checklist:**

<p><b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b></p>
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**WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Water quantity** - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

*Determination:* Authorization of the proposed change is unlikely to have any significant impact on water quantity. The proposed change is just to expand the place of use for existing water rights, no additional flow or volume is proposed.

The source of water is the Missouri River below Fort Peck dam. The Missouri River below Fort Peck dam has not been identified as chronically or periodically dewatered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (DFWP). The DFWP has a water reservation on this portion of the Missouri River for 5178 CFS to maintain instream flows.

**Water quality** - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

*Determination:* Authorization of the proposed change is unlikely to have any significant impact on water quality as there will be no change in the amount of flow or volume withdrawn from the source.

The Missouri River is listed on the TMDL 303(d) list as fully supporting drinking water, primary contact recreation, and agricultural uses, while not supporting aquatic life. The impairment on aquatic life is likely due to flow regime alterations and water temperature due to flows being regulated at Fort Peck Dam and would not be affected by authorization of the proposed change.

**Groundwater** - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

*Determination:* N/A, project is a surface water diversion.

**DIVERSION WORKS** - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

*Determination:* The water right proposed for change is a surface water diversion in which the means of diversion has already been completed and is in use. Authorization of the proposed change will have no impact on stream channels, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, or well construction.

#### **UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Endangered and threatened species** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."



*Determination:* Authorization of the proposed change is unlikely to have any significant impact to any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants, or aquatic species, or any species of special concern. It is also unlikely that authorization of this change would create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. There will be no change in the diverted flow or volume of the Applicant's existing water rights due to the proposed change.

A list of 11 animal species of special concern within the project area was generated using the Montana Natural Heritage Program's website. The table below lists all animals found. None of the animals on the list are listed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service as "endangered." No plant species within the project area are listed as threatened, endangered, or identified as species of special concern.

Great Blue Heron	Burrowing Owl	Greater Sage Grouse	Western Hog-nosed Snake
Iowa Darter	Pearl Dace	Paddlefish	Sauger
Blue Sucker	Northern Redbelly Dace	Sprague's Pipit	

The houses that will be served through this proposed change have already been built. Completion of this project will just include installation of the delivery pipelines.

**Wetlands** - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

*Determination:* This project takes place within the Milk River corridor. There are numerous oxbows and wetlands created from natural stream channel migration and irrigation practices. It is unlikely that any wetland will be significantly impacted by this project since the houses to be served through this project have already been built and the only infrastructure needing construction is the distribution pipes. A map provided with the application shows the majority of planned distribution pipes will follow established county roads. A search using the USFWS wetland mapper shows the conveyance pipelines following the Bentonite Road appear to cross one freshwater emergent wetland. Aerial imagery shows that the identified wetland is located in what appears to be a tilled wheat field. No other identified wetlands were located within the planned route of the distribution pipes.

Wetlands were addressed in the October, 2002 Final Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

**Ponds** - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

*Determination:* There were no ponds identified within the project area that would be impacted by this project.

**GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

*Determination:* Geology/soil quality, stability and moisture were addressed in the October, 2002 Final Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

**VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS** - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

*Determination:* Vegetation cover, quantity and quality/noxious weeds were addressed in the October, 2002 Final Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

**AIR QUALITY** - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

*Determination:* The proposed project will involve the installation of water pipelines. It is not expected that there will be any deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to an increase of air pollutants related to this project.

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project if it is on State or Federal Lands. If it is not on State or Federal Lands simply state NA-project not located on State or Federal Lands.*

*Determination:* Historical and archeological sites were addressed in the October, 2002 Final Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

**DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY** - *Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.*

*Determination:* No other impacts to environmental resources of land, water, and energy have been identified.

## **HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - *Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.*

*Determination:* No known environmental plans or goals will be impacted by this project.



**ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES** - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.*

*Determination:* No access or recreational activities will be impacted by this project.

**HUMAN HEALTH** - *Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.*

*Determination:* Human health and quality of life were addressed in the October, 2002 Final Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - *Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.*

Yes\_\_\_ No X *If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.*

*Determination:* There are no additional government regulatory impacts on private property rights associated with this change application.

**OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** - *For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.*

*Impacts on:*

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? No significant impacts identified
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? No significant impacts identified
- (c) Existing land uses? No significant impacts identified
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No significant impacts identified
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No significant impacts identified
- (f) Demands for government services? No significant impacts identified
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? No significant impacts identified
- (h) Utilities? No significant impacts identified
- (i) Transportation? No significant impacts identified
- (j) Safety? No significant impacts identified
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? No significant impacts identified

**2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:**

Secondary and cumulative impacts were addressed in the October, 2002 Final Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

3. **Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:**

Wetland mitigation was addressed in the October, 2002 Final Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

4. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:**

The no action alternative would be to not grant the change. This would not allow the City of Glasgow to assist the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority in providing quality drinking water to the service area south and west of the Milk River. These people would not be able to get water from the DPRWA until mainline connections are completed between Nashua and Frasier.

*PART III. Conclusion*

1. ***Preferred Alternative***

Issue a change authorization if the Applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402, MCA, are met.

2 ***Comments and Responses***

4. ***Finding:***

Yes\_\_\_ No X Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

*If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:*

No significant impacts related to the proposed project have been identified.

*Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:*

Name: Nathaniel T. Ward

Title: Water Resource Specialist

Date: September 22, 2014



## ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (EA/EIS)

### Part I. Proposed Action Description

**Applicant/Contact Name & Address:** City of Glasgow  
319 Third St S  
Glasgow, MT 59230

**Type of Action:** Application to Change an Existing Water Right 40S 30069034

**Location Affected by Action:**

T29N, R39E

Sections 29-32

T28N, R39E

Sections 3-36

T28N, R40E

Sections 7\*, 8\*, 19, 20, 30, 31

**Narrative Summary of Proposed Action:** The proposed change is for a temporary change in the place of use for the municipal water system of the City of Glasgow. The proposed change will add additional places of use to the existing system. The intent of this change is to assist the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority (DPRWA) provide water to a portion of their customers until the DPRWA mainline is completed and water can be delivered from the treatment plant in Wolf Point.

### Part II. Existing Environmental Review Information

**Title:** Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment, Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System, Fort Peck Reservation and Dry Prairie Service Areas

**Publication Date:** October, 2002

**Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Reclamation), Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Montana Department of Environmental Quality

**Location Where Interested Parties Can View or Obtain the Document:** DNRC - Water Resources Regional Office, Glasgow or Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority, Culbertson

### Part III. Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- ☒\_X\_Yes ☐\_No Does the existing environmental review cover an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action?
- ☒\_X\_Yes ☐\_No Is the information in the existing environmental review accurate and clearly presented?
- ☒\_X\_Yes ☐\_No Is the information in the existing environmental review applicable to the action being considered?
- ☒\_X\_Yes ☐\_No Were all appropriate Agencies consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review?
- ☒\_X\_Yes ☐\_No Were alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort?
- ☒\_X\_Yes ☐\_No Have all of the impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review?
- ☒\_X\_Yes ☐\_No If the existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action, will they be mitigated below the level of significance?



#### Part IV. Conclusion

If the answers to ALL of the questions listed above are "Yes", the existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities.

Yes\_\_\_ No X Based on the criteria evaluated in the existing EA, is an EIS required?

**Name:** Nathaniel T. Ward

**Title:** Water Resource Specialist

**Date:** September 22, 2014

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

